

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 02402 182241Z

72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /062 W

----- 109629

P 182135Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6755

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2402

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINR, MX, US

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA'S MARCH 14 ALLEGATIONS RE CIA AT UNAM

REF: MEXICO 2337; MEXICO 2348

1. THE EVENTS SURROUNDING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S ABORTIVE ATTEMPT ON MARCH 14 TO REOPEN A "DIALOGUE" WITH STUDENTS AT MEXICO'S HUGE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY (UNAM) HAVE FOR THE MOMENT TAKEN SECOND PLACE IN THE MEDIA TO THE VISIT OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ. SENATE LEADER OLIVARES SANTANA, HOWEVER, ON MARCH 17 CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE MARCH 14 EVENTS (LINKING THEM WITH "EXTRANATIONAL INTERESTS"), TO BE DEBATED IN THE SENATE ON MARCH 20 DURING THE SAME SESSION WHICH WILL RECEIVE THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ECHEVERRIA AND OTHER OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THE "AGITATORS" WHO CAUSED THE TROUBLE NUMBERED NO MORE THAN FORTY OR FIFTY. PRIVATE GOM INFORMATION, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT SOME 500 PARTICIPATED IN THE DEMONSTRATION OF INTENSE OPPOSITION TO ECHEVERRIA'S VISIT. (U.S. NEWSMEN WHO WERE PRESENT ESTIMATE DEMONSTRATORS AT CONSIDERABLY HIGHER FIGURES. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THAT UNAM RECTOR SOBERON DID NOT ANTICIPATE MUCH OPPOSITION TO THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT (AND IS BEING BLAMED FOR HIS FAILURE TO FORESEE WHAT HAPPENED).  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 02402 182241Z

EXCEPT FOR HIS INTERJECTIONS, ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH AT UNAM --

VIRTUALLY SHOUTED DOWN AT TIMES --  
SOUNDS MUCH LIKE HIS USUAL STYLE, EXHORTATORY  
AND PLATITUDINOUS BUT CERTAINLY NOT CALCULATED TO ENRAGE  
HIS UNAM LISTENERS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT ECHEVERRIA WAS SURPRISED AND ANGERED  
BY HIS UNAM RECEPTION. HE IS HARDLY ACCUSTOMED TO ANY-  
THING OTHER THAN APPLAUSE. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HIS ATTACK  
ON THOSE HECKLING HIM, LABELING THEM "FASCISTS," "MANIPU-  
LATED BY THE CIA" RESULTED FROM HIS ANGER. CERTAINLY  
ECHEVERRIA HAS EVERY REASON TO KNOW FROM HIS YEARS OF  
EXPERIENCE AS PRESIDENT AND EARLIER AS SECRETARY AND SUB-  
SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT, THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF CIA (OR  
ANY OTHER USG) INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISTURBANCES WAS VIRTUALLY  
NIL. HE PROBABLY CHOSE THOSE EPITHETS HE THOUGHT MOST LIKELY  
TO WOUND HIS ATTACKERS WHICH HE MUST KNOW NOW -- IF HE DID  
NOT AT THE TIME -- WERE OF THE EXTREME LEFT.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, ECHEVERRIA AFTER COOLING OFF HAS DONE,  
AND PERHAPS CAN DO, NOTHING TO RETRACT OR SOFTEN HIS WORDS  
WITHOUT APPEARING FOOLISH AND INTEMPERATE. THOSE WORDS,  
FOR THE MILLIONS OF MEXICANS WHO READ NEWSPAPERS, WATCH TV,  
OR LISTEN TO THE RADIO, REMAIN ON THE RECORD. MOREOVER,  
SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS FELL QUICKLY INTO LINE (SEE MEXICO  
2337). SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT MOYA PALENCIA, WITHOUT  
DIRECTLY REFERRING TO THE CIA, IN A SPEECH OF MARCH 15  
LAUDING ECHEVERRIA ALLUDED TO "CACEROLISTA AND FASCISTOID"  
TENDENCIES. "CACEROLISMO", WHICH REFERS TO THE "POTS AND  
PANS" ATTACK BY CHILEAN WOMEN ON ALLENDE'S ADMINISTRATION,  
IS A CODE WORD IN MEXICAN POLITICAL USAGE WITH STRONG  
OVERTONES OF U.S. INTERVENTION.

5. BESIDES THE MANY GOM OFFICIALS, OTHERS WHO HAVE  
RUSHED TO THE DEFENSE OF ECHEVERRIA AGAINST THOSE WHO AT-  
TACKED HIM INCLUDE PRI PARTY OFFICIALS, LEGISLATORS, AN  
ASSORTMENT OF NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS, AND THE ALWAYS AVAIL-  
ABLE CLAQUE (THE ORGANIZATION OF "REVOLUTIONARY ECONOMISTS,"  
PEASANT GROUPS AND THE LIKE) WHICH PERFORMS ON DEMAND.

6. COMMENT: IN THIS INCIDENT, AS OTHERS, PRESIDENT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 02402 182241Z

ECHEVERRIA HAS SHOWN A DISTURBING READINESS UNDER STRESS  
TO ATTACK "FOREIGN DEVILS" AND PARTICULARLY THE U.S.  
EVEN MORE DISTURBING, IN A WAY, IS ECHEVERRIA'S FAILURE  
EVER TO ADMIT ERROR AND THE WAY IN WHICH THE ENTIRE PRO-GOVERN-

NMENT MEXICAN ESTABLISHMENT FALLS QUICKLY INTO PLACE  
BEHIND HIM. THE SENATE DEBATE ON MARCH 20 MAY BRING NEW  
ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE CIA.

JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, ALLEGATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MEXICO02402  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750094-0779  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750341/aaaabkkd.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MEXICO 2337, 75 MEXICO 2348  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ECHEVERRIA'S MARCH 14 ALLEGATIONS RE CIA AT UNAM  
**TAGS:** PINR, MX, US, CIA, UNAM, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006